

Subject/Re: Bill 5413: AN ACT CONCERNING INVASIVE PLANTS

Please support Bill 5413: AN ACT CONCERNING INVASIVE PLANTS.

Thank you for your past support in helping to deal with the important economic, environmental and health problems related to invasive plant species in Connecticut. It's clear that the invasive plant issues are destroying our natural habitat and bringing the trees in our open spaces down to their knees. Is there somewhere I can send some pictures - a picture is worth a thousand words!

The Fairfield Forestry Committee has been looking at the invasive plant problem for years - our public works department shrugs their shoulders and the Conservation Commission totally ignores the issues. In the meantime valuable habitat is getting over run with invasives that choke out our natural habitat that supports our wildlife community. CT forests are unique, but we are not taking care of this resource - The powerful storms bring the vines and compromised trees down on the power lines and don't we see the connection????

We need to support the Invasive Plants Council and we need to wake up to this "growing" problem of invasives in our urban, suburban and rural landscapes. I also think we need to do much more that fund the Council - we need to work directly with our Conservation Commissions and Public Works department to find methods to cope with this problem.

Just look around - that's all anyone needs to do to understand the problem. We must be responsible and realize the issue of invasive management is important and cannot be ignored. It affects everything around us -the health of our forests has a direct impact on the health of our community!

The Invasive Plants Coordinator leverages thousands of hours of work and expertise from hundreds of people concerned about the destructive impacts invasive plants are having on our lakes, forests, and rivers. Without this group and staff Connecticut's land

and citizen's health would be severely negatively impacted.

I strongly encourage you to endorse Bill 5413: AN ACT CONCERNING INVASIVE PLANTS to continue to fund the Invasive Plants Council so it may continue to work with these citizens and groups to help control invasive plants in our state.

Thank you,

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